Minor's Pregnancy. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Argument Against Proposition 73

PARENTS RIGHTFULLY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR TEENAGERS' LIVES and all parents want what is best for their children. BUT GOOD FAMILY COMMUNICATION CAN'T BE IMPOSED BY GOVERNMENT.

Parents care most about keeping their children safe. That means always safe, even if they feel they can't come to us and tell us everything.

Family communication must begin long before a teen faces an unplanned pregnancy. The best way to protect our daughters is to begin talking about responsible, appropriate sexual behavior from the time they are young and fostering an atmosphere that assures them they can come to us.

Even teenagers who have good relationships with their parents might be afraid to talk to them about something as sensitive as pregnancy.

And sadly, some teens live in troubled homes. The family might be having serious problems, or parents might be abusive, or a relative may even have caused the pregnancy.

THIS LAW PUTS THOSE VULNERABLE TEENAGERS—THOSE WHO MOST NEED PROTECTION—IN HARM'S WAY, OR FORCES THEM TO GO TO COURT. Think about it: the girl is already terrified, she's pregnant, her family is abusive or worse. She's not going to be marching up to a judge in a crowded courthouse. She doesn't need a judge, she needs a counselor.

Mandatory notification laws make scared, pregnant teens who can't go to their parents do scary things, instead of going to the doctor to get the medical help they need. In other states, when parental notification laws make teenagers choose between talking with parents or having illegal or unsafe abortions, some teens choose the illegal abortion—even though it is dangerous. Sometimes teenagers are just teenagers.

And if, in desperation, teenagers turn to illegal, selfinduced or back-alley abortions many will suffer serious injuries and some will die.

The CALIFORNIA NURSES ASSOCIATION, CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS, AND THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ALL OPPOSE Proposition 73. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but, in the real world, they just put teenagers in real danger.

THE REAL ANSWER TO TEEN PREGNANCY IS PREVENTION, AND STRONG, CARING FAMILIES-NOT NEW LAWS THAT ENDANGER OUR DAUGHTERS.

California's teen pregnancy rate dropped significantly over the last decade without constitutional amendments or forced notification laws. That's because doctors, nurses, parents, teachers, and counselors are teaching teenagers about responsibility, abstinence, and birth control. These programs will help keep our daughters safe and out of trouble.

Talking to our daughters when they are young and fostering a place where they can freely communicate is the best solution.

BUT IF—FOR WHATEVER REASON—OUR DAUGHTERS CAN'T OR THEY WON'T COME TO US, WE MUST MAKE SURE THEY GET SAFE, PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ATTENTION AND QUALITY COUNSELING FROM CARING DOCTORS AND NURSES.

As parents, we want to know when our daughters face a decision like this so we can be helpful and supportive. But also, as parents, our daughters' safety is more important than our desire to be informed.

Please join us in voting NO on Proposition 73.

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Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 73

THE OPPONENTS JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND:

- 1. How parental notification laws work.
- 2. How the juvenile court system works.
- 3. How the abortion industry works.

Opponents say that "in the real world" notification laws "just put teenagers in real danger." But OVER THIRTY STATES already have such laws, and THEIR REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE SHOWS THESE LAWS REDUCE MINORS' PREGNANCY AND ABORTION RATES WITHOUT DANGER AND HARM TO MINORS.

If an abused minor does not want a parent notified, Prop. 73 requires strict confidentiality and an appointed guardian to assist her in juvenile court proceedings, usually informal and in judges' private chambers. The judge will decide whether it is in the girl's best interest to involve a parent, or whether she is mature and well-informed to decide—and will report evidence of abuse to a child protective agency so abuse problems will be addressed. The opponents' solution allows a secret abortion and return to the abuse.

Opponents say that parents "must make sure" their daughters "get safe professional medical attention" from "caring doctors."

BUT HOW? PARENTS WHO ARE KEPT IN THE DARK CAN'T ENSURE ANYTHING FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS. Minors getting secret abortions don't seek out "quality counseling" and "caring doctors." They are shuttled through abortion clinics where no one knows them or has their medical records or history.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORTED MANY ABORTION BUSINESSES ARE "CHOP SHOPS" WHERE SUBSTANDARD CARE RESULTS IN INJURIES AND DEATH. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION WORKS.

FOR OUR DAUGHTERS' SAFETY, HEALTH, AND PROTECTION, VOTE YES on 73!

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